

The Polyporaceae of the United States, Alaska and Canada. By LEE ORAS OVERHOLTS. Prepared for publication by Josiah L. Lowe. University of Michigan Scientific Series, Volume XIX. xiv + 466 pp., 132 pls. 1953. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. \$7.50.

Mycologists, plant pathologists and others have long awaited the appearance of this work as Dr. Overholts was the leading specialist in the Polyporaceae in America for many years. It is the first unified comprehensive treatment of this family for the area.

The first draft of the manuscript was written in 1933, but publication facilities were not secured at that time. Dr. Overholts made corrections and additions for new material as his health would allow until the time of his death in 1946. It is especially fortunate that Dr. Josiah L. Lowe, a widely known and able specialist in this field was willing to complete the work necessary for publication of the manual. He has included new material in the keys, text, and illustrations and has brought the whole to a well-finished product.

The introduction gives a summary of the history of classifications of the family, and of the variations in generic concepts held by different students of these fungi. An explanation is given of the morphological characters and terminology employed. Also the biology and the role of these fungi in nature is discussed.

The taxonomic treatment is the conservative one that characterized Dr. Overholts' earlier publications. The key to genera limits the family to ten old, long established genera. Two of these, the non-pileate genera *Merulius* and *Poria*, are not treated in this manual.

This treatment is in striking contrast to those of several other workers who have segregated a large number of other genera within the family. The author defends his position in this matter in his introductory chapter. The more recent publications of Donk (1933), Pilat (1936-1942), Cunningham (1946-1948), and Pinto-Lopes (1952) employ quite different criteria as their basis of classification. The first two are cited, but none of them is reviewed, since they appeared after the manuscript was written.

The keys to species are well constructed and simple. A conservative synonymy for each species is provided. Clear concise technical descriptions, using both macroscopic and microscopic characters, are given for each species as well as habitat, distribution and published illustrations. Two hundred thirty-five species and twelve varieties are so treated.

An outstanding feature of this manual is the abundant and excellent illustrations consisting of 675 half-tone illustrations and more than 200 line drawings. The half-tones, although necessarily reduced in size, are clear and furnish information as to macroscopic characters, while the line drawings illustrate the character of the hymenium and spores.

The citation of publication data for each species, the synonyms listed, and the bibliography of 238 titles provide excellent references to the literature of the field. A glossary furnishes an explanation of the terminology used.

This manual will be a valuable standard work for many years to come, and the editor and publishers are to be congratulated on the quality of the publication.—LEE BONAR, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley.

NOTES AND NEWS

Authors of scholarly works which may be of great importance to a particular field and yet, because of their probable limited sale, may be too expensive for publication in the United States, will be interested to learn of the organization of the International Scholars Forum. The Advisory Board of the Forum has arranged to receive and appraise for publication by a European press such manuscripts as may be submitted to them by American authors. Details of the plan may be obtained from the Librarian of the Honnold Library, Claremont, California.